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SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
HELD AT THE
NEW WILLARD HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C.
ON
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 24 AND 25, 1908

MORNING SESSION

Friday, April 24, 1908

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock a. m. by the President of the Society, Hon. Elihu Root.

Mr. Root. Gentlemen of the Society, and Ladies: It is a pleasure to welcome you to the American capital for the Second Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law. The year that has passed since the first meeting furnishes abundant proof that it is no academic subject which we are studying, and that it is no dead language in which we speak.

During that short year the Second International Conference has made what may fairly be declared the greatest single advance ever made at one time in the development and acceptance of rules of international law for the government of national conduct. I will not attempt to enumerate the other evidences of increasing interest and active participation by the people of the world in the development of the science of international law, but its evidences are many. In our own country eleven of the conventions signed at The Hague have been approved by the Senate. In our country also the work of establishing a general system under which there may be impartial judgment upon the application of the rules of international law to

international conduct has been advanced by the signing and ratification by the Senate of treaties of arbitration between the United States, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, and Mexico. In our own country also during the past year has assembled a conference in congress of the representatives of all five of the Central American states, who have agreed, after long and temperate and kindly discussion, upon a series of conventions, all of which have been ratified by their respective countries in the design to promote the reasonable solution of difficulties in that long much-distracted part of the earth, having at the fore the establishment of a judicial tribunal for the settlement of all questions that arise between the five Central American nations, a tribunal in which shall sit a court of five prominent judges, having no other business than the judicial work of the tribunal.

Our Society has given evidence of the widespread interest felt in the United States in the subject of international law. Beginning with a very few members, during the short period of its existence it has, without much advertising, naturally expanded until there are now on the rolls over nine hundred members.

In accordance with the custom which Dr. Scott has imposed upon the Society, the President is expected to make some remarks at the opening of each annual meeting of the Society upon some subject connected with international law, and without availing myself of the opportunity which I have to occupy the entire time of the annual meeting, I shall discharge that duty by making a few very brief observations on the subject of "The sanction of international law."

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY, MR. ELIHU ROOT,
OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

One accustomed to the administration of municipal law who turns his attention for the first time to the discussion of practical questions arising between nations and dependent upon the rules of international law, must be struck by a difference between the two systems which materially affects the intellectual processes involved in every discussion, and which is apparently fundamental.